

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/743,829

Applicant(s)

KOKOJIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

TAN Q. NGUYEN

3661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/24/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-36.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

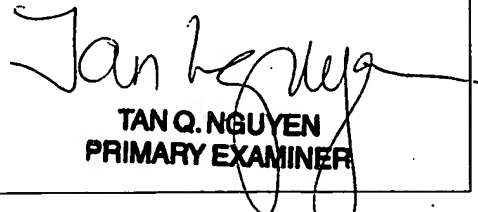
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/24/2003
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


TAN Q. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. This communication is an Examiner's reasons for allowance in response to application filed on December 24, 2003, assigned serial 10/743,829 and titled "Guidance Information Providing Apparatus, Server Apparatus, Guidance Information Providing Method, and Program Product".

2. The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

a. After carefully reviewing the application in light of the prior art of record, the amended claims and additional search of all the possible areas relevant to the present application, a set of related prior art references has been found, but those prior art references are not deemed strong to make the application unpatentable. Thus, it is found that the application is now in condition for allowance.

b. Although the prior art disclose several claimed limitations, none of the references teaches a guidance information providing apparatus, method and computer program which includes at least a guidance route search unit for searching a first memory to acquire a guiding route connecting the input departure place and destination on the basis of the network data, a viewpoint setting unit which sets a plurality of viewpoint position candidates for visualizing the guiding route in target area expressed in a three-dimensional shape data as stored in a second memory, an evaluation unit which obtains an evaluation value of visibility, from each of the viewpoint position candidates, of the guiding route in the target area expressed in the three dimensional shape data, an information map generating unit for generating the information map by determining a viewpoint position for generating the information map from the plurality of viewpoint position candidates on the basis of the evaluation value of visibility and by

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projecting the three dimensional shape data from the determined viewpoint position, and presentation unit for presenting the generated information map to a user (claims 1, 4, 5, 22, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 35 and 36). Also, neither references teaches means for setting a viewpoint position for the guiding route expressed in the three dimensional shape data, means for performing a plurality of deformation processes for the three dimensional shape data to improve visibility, from the selected viewpoint position, of the guiding route expressed in the three dimensional shape data, to obtain a plurality of route deformation candidates, means for obtaining an evaluation value of visibility, from the selected viewpoint position, of each of the route deformation candidates expressed in the three dimensional shape data, means for determining route deformation for generating the information map from the plurality of route deformation candidates, on the basis of the evaluation value of visibility of each of the route deformation candidates, means for generating the information map by projecting, from the selected viewpoint position, the three dimensional shape data subjected to the determined route deformation, and presenting function for generating the generated information map to a user (claims 2, 3, 23, 24, 28, 29, 33 and 34).

c. Claims 1-36 are allowable over the prior arts of record.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Tan Nguyen, whose telephone number is (571) 272_6966. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 5:30 AM-4:00 PM

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black, can be reached on (571) 272-6956.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

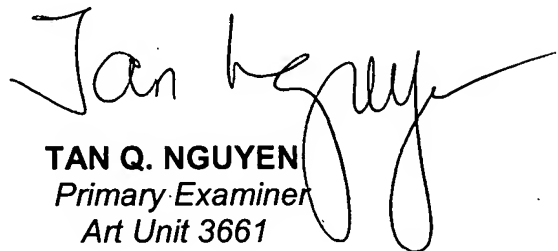
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

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or faxed to the Central Fax: (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/tqn
October 17, 2005


TAN Q. NGUYEN
Primary Examiner
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